



To: Nova Scotia Law Amendments Committee  
Re: Bill 147, Public Utilities Act (amendment)

The Antigonish Coalition to End Poverty brings together groups in our community dealing with many aspects of this crucial issue, including affordable housing, food security, child poverty, energy security and accessible transportation.

One of our constituent groups, the Antigonish Emergency Fuel Fund, every year assists 125 or more local families experiencing energy poverty, 46% of which are families with children. The number of families dealing with unmanageable electricity bills is growing annually.

We were pleased to hear that Bill 147 has achieved first reading and is scheduled for second reading today. In particular, it enables the development of regulations for Nova Scotia Power Incorporated in many areas, including equity, low-income service and energy poverty.

We are concerned, however, that Section 67 of the Public Utilities Act, as it stands, would prohibit the charging of different (reduced) rates and fees to low-income customers. This is one approach that has been used successfully in a number of jurisdictions to enable low-income families to manage their electricity bills more sustainably.

We request you to consider amending Section 67 of the Public Utilities Act to permit different rates and fees for Nova Scotia Power's low-income customers, so as to deal with equity, low-income service and energy poverty as per 52 A (3c) of Bill 147.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wynne Sandler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wynne Sandler  
Chair, Antigonish Coalition to End Poverty